



This Old Column

May, 2001

SATELLITE DISH REGULATION

There has been much confusion with the recent FCC ruling on satellite dishes. At first it appeared that the Federal Communications Commission prohibited restrictions on small satellite dishes (those less than one meter in diameter), or so it seemed. In the final ruling of August, 1996, two important aspects were revealed. First, any governmental entity must be cautious in how satellite dishes are regulated, if at all. They must err on the side of being non-restrictive. Second, the ruling does not take away all ability to control small dishes. It acknowledges the special situation that exists in historic districts and the necessity for preservation. The test appears to be that any regulations of small satellite dishes must be similar to that of other, comparable fixtures.

In the past, the IHPC policies recommended placement of satellite

NEW FACES AT IHPC

If you stop by the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Office soon, be sure to say hi to the new faces you see.

Amy Cunningham has filled the new IHPC staff position as Preservation Planner. Amy will be working closely with neighborhood residents and will also take on much responsibility in long-term planning for the IHPC, assisting in the development of future historic districts.

Amy began her new position on May 8th, after graduating from Ball State University's M.S. in Historic Preservation (MSHP) program on May 5th. Amy's Masters Thesis, "Hoosier Commuters: The Effects of the Streetcar & Interurban System on the Suburban Growth of Indianapolis," discussed city growth, the availability of transportation in Indianapolis, and gave an overview of the Irvington, Brightwood, and Woodruff Place suburbs. Amy has served assistantships with Indiana Main Street

dishes in the rear area of a structure and not highly visible from the street. The current guidelines have changed slightly.

Any dish located on a structure and not visible from the street, does not require a Certificate of Appropriateness. Any dish located on the rear 2/3rds of the structure, where it is visible from the street, will require a staff approval. Any dish located on the front 1/3rd of the structure, where it is visible, will be presented to the Commission for a Certificate of Authorization. This option is only available if there is no other alternative location and would be considered as a hardship situation.

Our objective is to be consistent with FCC rulings, provide maximum flexibility for individuals, and retain the ability to exercise some influence over satellite dish locations. The IHPC wishes to avoid highly visible installations that significantly affect the visual character of a building and its surroundings.

and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. During the summer of 2000, Amy worked with Construction Technology Laboratories, Inc., on the exterior restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University in Political Science and Professional Writing.

Shannon Hill is the IHPC's summer intern as part of the Mayor's Summer Intern Program. She will be with the office through July assisting with applications, office administration and historic research. Shannon is a current student in Ball State's MSHP program and will graduate in May of 2002. She received her Bachelor's Degree in 1999 from the University of Tulsa in Organizational Communication.

Please join us in welcoming our new staff.